



# **VIRGINIA DEFENSE FORCE**

## **VDF 100: Active Shooter Training**



# Training Purpose

- **Action:** *This overview is designed to develop an understanding of Operational Security, Physical Security and Anti-terrorism awareness and practices (including active shooter)*

**Conditions:** *Interactive classroom training*

- **Standard:** *To correctly identify security measures usage and terrorist threats/reactions*





# Course Outcomes



- **OUTCOME #1: Recognize and define basic action shooter information**
- **OUTCOME #2: Describe Run/Hide/Fight alternatives**
- **OUTCOME #3: Explain post-incident response**



# **General Guidelines**



# Course Outline



- **Community training started in 2006**
- **Lessons learned from Columbine**
- **Training focuses on options...**
- **Police response**
- **Campus notifications**
- **Plan, Plan, Plan!!!!!!!**



# U.S. Shootings



September 13,  
2013

- Navy Yard
- Washington, DC (13 fatalities)

December 14,  
2012

- Sandy Hook Elementary School
- Newtown, CT (28 fatalities)

April 20, 1999

- Columbine High School
- Littleton, CO (13 fatalities)



# Columbine High School



- Time: 16 Minutes
- Casualties:
  - 13 Killed
  - 21 Wounded







# Sandy Hook



- Greater psychological ramifications than Virginia Tech (2007) due to the victim set
- Extensive media exposure
- Influencing leaders at highest levels
  - “I know this is not the first time this country has debated how to reduce gun violence, but **this time is different.**” –President Obama





# Navy Yard



- Shooter influenced by delusions;
  - Thought he was being controlled by low-frequency radio waves
  - Scratched the words "End the torment!" on the barrel of the shotgun used in the shooting
- Extended shooting time
  - First shot at 0816
  - Last at 0925



# The Active Shooter Defined



- 1 or more individuals actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a populated area.
- “Active” aspect of the definition implies that both law enforcement personnel and citizens have the potential to affect the outcome of the event based upon their responses to the situation.



# Active Shooters



- Most Attackers had no history of prior violent or criminal behavior
- Considered the greatest terrorist threat on campuses
- Incidents of targeted violence at schools were rarely sudden, impulsive acts



# Mentality of Active Shooters



- Desire is to kill and seriously injure without concern for his safety or threat of capture
- Normally has intended victims and will search them out
- Will continue to move throughout building/area until stopped by law enforcement, suicide, or other intervention



# Active Shooter Statistics



- From an FBI Study of Active Shooter Incidents in the US Between 2000-2013
  - 160 incidents occurred.
  - Average of 11.4 incidents per year.
  - Casualties included 486 killed and 557 wounded in this time period. Shooters are not included in casualty figures.
  - 70% of the incidents occurred in either a commerce/business or educational environment.
  - Educational environments were identified as the 2<sup>nd</sup> most common location for these incidents (39 total) and had some of the highest casualty rates.
  - 27 incidents were at Pre-K to 12 Schools, 12 were at Institutions of Higher Education

**So what do these statistics tell you?**



# Active Shooter Statistics



- From an FBI Study of Active Shooter Incidents in the US Between 2000-2013 (Continued)
  - In at least 6 incidents, the shooters were female, all others were male
  - All but 2 incidents involved a single shooter
  - 60% of the incidents ended before Police arrived
  - Even when law enforcement was present or able to respond within minutes, civilians often had to make life and death decisions. That is why this training is so important; to prepare you for these type situations you may face

**So what do these statistics tell you?**



# Active Shooter Statistics



- Incidents in the US between 2014-2015
  - 20 incidents occurred per year
  - 231 casualties: 92 killed and 139 wounded (shooters are not included)
  - 6 incidents ended with civilian involvement
  - 26 incidents ended with Law Enforcement Officers at the scene.
  - 14 incidents ended with an exchange of gunfire between the shooters and Law Enforcement.
    - Of the 16 shooters involved in these exchanges:
      - 12 were killed by Law Enforcement
      - 3 committed suicide
      - 1 surrendered





# Active Shooter Statistics



- Incidents in the US between 2014-2015 (Continued)
  - 42 Shooters
    - 39 males
    - 3 females
  - The shooters ranged in ages from pre-teen to 1 shooter in their 70's
  - 15 of the 40 incidents occurred in areas of commerce (businesses, banks, etc.)
  - Six of the incidents occurred in educational environments:
    - 3 at schools (pre-K through 12th grade) and
    - 3 at Institutions of Higher Education



# **Your Role During A Shooting**



# Active Shooter

- **RUN:** Best option: Evacuate/Get out
- **HIDE:** Hide and barricade yourself in a room  
**UNTIL YOU CAN EVACUATE**
- **FIGHT:** Take actions to prepare to defend yourself





# Run (Evacuate)



Run/evacuation is always the preferred course of action.

- Have multiple potential evacuation routes in case one of them is inaccessible
- Avoid open hallways due to not knowing who or what is around the corner
- Help others escape, if possible

***Run***



# Run (Evacuate)

If you decide to evacuate, commit to your action, even if others refuse to follow:

- Leave your belongings behind
- Prevent others from entering an area where the shooter might be
- Get far away from the scene & seek shelter

***Run***



# Your Role During a Shooting



- Immediate and Safe Escape
- ***Remember:***
  - ***Don't*** leave a safe place to take matters into your own hands. Leave it to the Law Enforcement Officers.

***Hide***



# Your Role During a Shooting



- Secure in Place
  - Lock and barricade doors
  - Close blinds
  - Stay Calm and Quiet
  - Turn off the lights



***Hide***





# Your Role During a Shooting



- Overpower??
  - If directly confronted by the threatening person, its decision time:
  - ONLY consider to COUNTER if you are in immediate danger and have no other option. Lockdown or Evacuate is always a better option if available.
- Use “Weapons of Opportunity”
  - Scissors, pens, pencils, thumb tacks, chairs or any other items that can be thrown etc.
- Personal safety
  - Leader not Hero
- \*Remember mentality of shooter\*

***Fight***



# Your Role During a Shooting



- REMEMBER, there is strength in numbers!
- If the threat becomes imminent, yell, throw, and attack the aggressor (high and low), taking the aggressor to the floor
- If possible, dislodge the weapon from the aggressor
- Hold the aggressor down, one person on each limb and one person controlling the aggressor's head



***Fight***



# Planning for an Active Shooter



- KISS
- Have a plan "B" because "A" will fail
  - Murphy's Law
- Where do I go, what do I do?
  - Rally points
- Practice, Practice, Practice
- ***Be prepared, not paranoid***



# Your Role During a Shooting



- Always go with your gut instinct
- Be observant
- Limit opportunity for crime
- Report anything suspicious
- Escorts and assistance
- Be Safe!!!





# Questions?